



# The Connecticut Libertarian

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

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www.lpct.org

## Chairman's Corner

By Leonard Rasch

### *The Best in Libertarian Party Ideas Exchanged in Nashville*

Over forty Libertarian Party State Chairs and Executive Directors met in Nashville, Tennessee on Feb 23rd and 24th to exchange ideas and experiences. The sessions were stimulating and rich with new ideas for party growth and success at the polls.

Many of the individual states have reached a special point in their growth. For example, Indiana ran 118 candidates last year. This was so dramatic that the Indianapolis Star wrote an editorial about this milestone. In that editorial the paper warned the Republican and Democratic parties that the Libertarians were obviously rising fast.

Other parties have achieved "major party" status in their respective states, providing easier access to the ballot line. It was striking to see, however, how different the election laws are in each state. While some are easier to work with than Connecticut, others are much more difficult.

See Chairman's Corner pg. 2

## Tax Day Protest Planned

Connecticut Libertarians will be at Post Offices in at least four cities during the evening of April 15th. They will be handing out the "Million Dollar Bills" created by the National Libertarian Party to illustrate that the Federal government spends a million dollars every 3.5 seconds. These bills and Connecticut Libertarian Party brochures will be offered to last-minute tax filers as they arrive at the Post Office to dutifully report their activities to the government.

Plan to come and join us this year. Contact any State Central Committee member (see [www.lpct.org](http://www.lpct.org) for a full listing) and help us in a city near you. Or, let's make it more than four cities!

## Libertarian Party of Connecticut Protests at State Capitol

By Linda Rasch

The Libertarian Party of Connecticut joined over 1,000 people at the State Capitol on Monday, March 4th to keep government out of parents homeschooling business. Currently, Connecticut is one of the least invasive states for guidelines on home-schooling. This leaves the choices and responsibilities of educating children with the parents.

The proposed bill would change this freedom to give the government the control to regulate parents and children in homeschooling. Several Connecticut Libertarians joined to oppose the bill, including the Chairman, Len Rasch; Vice Chairman and former homeschooler, Ned Vare; Secretary, James Madison; Asst. Treasurer, Andrew Rule; and Dawn Barry, a homeschooler and former President of the CT Home Educators Association who is on the LPSCC.

The proposed bill will require parents to provide written documentation to the superintendents of schools. According to the Hartford Courant on March 5, the bill would force homeschoolers by law to:

- Have a high school degree
- File notice of their intention to home

school with the superintendent

- Describe the subjects to be taught, the materials to be used, and a schedule of days of instruction that consists of at least 900 hours per calendar year
- Schedule independent assessment of the child's academic performance



Libertarian Party members support homeschoolers

Homeschoolers who provided testimony made it clear that they want to maintain their rights to choose how they should educate their children. One gentleman said that this bill is a violation of his fourth amendment rights. It forces him to provide evidence that may potentially be used against him, in the form of curricula. Parents would be forced to submit written curricula that superintendents can subjectively judge. Later,

See Protests at State Capitol pg. 2

## Your Rights Go Up In Smoke

By Steve Weitzman

If you smoke cigarettes – DUCK! The Republicans and Democrats in our state legislature have made a bull's eye with your face in it. As we go to press, we're waiting to find out if Governor Rowland will aim and fire. It would be best not to bet on restraint on his part. You'll need all your money to pay for the outrageous additional taxes you'll be paying if he signs the new cigarette tax into law.

The Republican and Democratic politicians have for quite some time made it clear that they would act as if

constitutionally required Equal Protection of the Law doesn't apply to people who smoke cigarettes. Right now, Connecticut citizens who smoke pay 50¢ per pack in state tax in addition to the 6% state sales tax. Now the Republicans and Democrats want you to pay 61¢ per pack state tax on top of the 50¢ per pack state tax on top of the 6% state sales tax. That will amount to approximately 45% in Connecticut tax per pack. Outrageous is an understatement.

The hardship that the state legisla-

See Up In Smoke pg. 2

## Chairman's Corner

*Continued from pg. 1*

One of the recurrent themes was the importance of establishing the Libertarian "brand". This was also identified as the number one goal from the Libertarian Party National Strategic Plan. Branding is a special focus for us for the next year or two, as we make more people aware of the existence of the Libertarian Party alternative.

Another often-repeated theme was that of making certain that people enjoyed the work that they did with the Libertarian Party. I think that our volunteers this year are enjoying themselves and, if you are not already with them, I invite you to join us. Each volunteer can have a huge impact on what we accomplish in 2002.

## Up in Smoke

*Continued from pg. 1*

tors will cause you will be fun time for them. The more money they take from you, the more money they have to pass out in patronage and pork, and consequently the more they entrench themselves in power. The Republicans and Democrats have from the start put Connecticut taxes on an infinite upward spiral – always up, never down. We are reminded of Thomas Jefferson's prophetic warning about government's natural tendency to grow at the expense of liberty.

Both the Republicans and the Democrats are responsible for the pending horrific abusive tax on our citizens who smoke. Either party could have stopped the legislation in the state senate. Neither did. In fact, neither party in the state senate even opposed the tax. Perhaps the Democrats and Republicans think you have no other party to turn to. This year, let's show them that they're wrong!

Editors Note: The legislature approved the cigarette tax hike that will take effect on April 3rd. With the 50¢ per pack increase, the total tax on cigarettes will be \$1.11 per pack.

## MEETINGS

### State Central Committee

Tuesday, April 16th – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in Wethersfield

### April Strategy Meeting

Saturday, April 13th – 9:00 a.m. – noon in Plainfield

Visit [www.lpct.org](http://www.lpct.org) for details.

## Protests at State Capitol

*Continued from pg. 1*

these officials could have charges brought against the parent if they felt the parent was not meeting the regulations.

On the contrary, homeschoolers are dramatically outperforming publicly schooled children. In testimony, homeschoolers reported that their children currently outrank public schooled children in SAT scores, Iowa tests and other standardized tests. One parent pointed out that the public schools are failing and superintendents are not handling their own responsibilities. Instead they want to spend their time subjectively measuring homeschoolers.

Public schools don't have the resources to regulate homeschoolers. One homeschooled student did the math and calculated that it would require 7.5 superintendents to absorb this new responsibility to monitor homeschoolers. Ironically, also on March 4, the public education system was looking at a bill to help solve a serious Connecticut teacher and administrator shortage in this state. Homeschoolers made it clear that the public school systems can not currently handle the responsibilities they insist on

having to educate our children. However, they are seeking to take control over how homeschoolers educate their children. Homeschooling parents feel that they should not be measured by the failing government schools.

The Libertarian party supports individual freedom and personal responsibility. Through this, parents should take the responsibility of their own children without government intervention. If passed, this law would allow the government the ability to bring charges against parents who are potentially not following the curriculum submitted. So, if the parent chooses to make a change in schooling, such as going to the museum, or to the legislative offices to oppose a bill against homeschooling, they could be charged.

The LPCT joined the masses to oppose the bill that would give control of homeschoolers to the government. Homeschooling is an ideal Libertarian Party issue, as homeschoolers are asserting their right to make decisions about their family without any "help" (control) from government bureaucrats.

## Freedom and Responsibility

Libertarians everywhere know that freedom and responsibility are inseparable. And some Connecticut libertarians know that I've taken on the responsibility of Ballot Access Coordinator. That means if the Libertarian Party of Connecticut doesn't gather the 11,000-12,000 signatures required to put us on the ballot this year, a state full of angry libertarians will be pointing their fingers at me.

I would much prefer to have a state full of responsible libertarians extend a hand and say that they'll help gather signatures, or at least that they'll sign themselves. If you can help in our signature gathering efforts, even if it's only to sign your own name, please contact Jerry Rivard at 203-378-4312 or [jrivard@optonline.net](mailto:jrivard@optonline.net). Please include your phone number and e-mail address, your town (that's important), and your comments on how you can help.

## Strategy Meeting Hosted at Libertarian Business!

The March Strategy Session was held on March 9th at the Paperback Café in Old Saybrook. The Café is owned by Carl Richardson, who is the LP Treasurer and the wonderful caterer of past Libertarian Party of Connecticut Conventions. Everyone enjoyed his exotic and excellent coffees and teas. More than twenty people attended.

During the session many topics were covered with energy and insight. Campaign plans, as well as Libertarian Party branding and other efforts, are coming together quickly.

One of the accomplishments of the meeting was the identification of three key issues to carry into this campaign in Connecticut: repeal of the income tax, education, and property rights. In particular, the property rights issue includes many Libertarian Party positions that are pertinent to current political activities.

### CANDIDATE LIST

Governor..... William Colonna  
Lt. Governor ..... Ned Vare  
Secretary of State ..... Darlene Nicholas  
Treasurer ..... Leonard Rasch  
Comptroller ..... Richard Lyons

### State Representatives

33rd ..... Vinnie Marotta  
43rd ..... Michael Constanza  
46th ..... William Russell  
82nd ..... Arline Dunlop  
91st ..... Abelardo Arias